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25X1A

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\* Opinion

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Articles in the New China Daily News and the New China Monthly, dated 1 May 1951, concerning the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Communist government of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, contained certain statements. Portions in quotations are from the publications. Except as noted, quotations are from the New China Daily News.

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1.

"People of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region have strongly armed themselves and have become part of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. During the past three years, armed forces of the Mongolian people have had 654 engagements with the enemy and have annihilated 21,900 enemy troops, and on the other hand have protected industrial activities of the Mongolian people and have stabilized social peace and order."

Fighting against Nationalist troops should have ended in October 1948. The following are possible reasons for such a large number of subsequent engagements:

- Battles attendant on participation in the Korean war.
- Skirmishes with Prince Te's troops.
- Attempts to quell counterrevolutionary riots and disturbances by dissatisfied elements.

2.

"After land redistribution, farmers have engaged in expanding the cultivation area, in increasing productivity and in improving their farming techniques. Statistics of the three years from 1948 through 1950 reveal that farmers from this region have reclaimed over 3,250,000 mou, adding 25 percent to the original cultivated area."

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CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

-2-

This increase in the cultivated area will not be welcomed by the Mongolian nomads. As the capacity of grazing lands in the area has already reached its limit, reclamation of "waste land" will only narrow the grazing lands and thus have the effect of applying pressure to the grazers who are still using the conventional means of cattle-raising. It was with this consideration in mind that the Manchukuo government, while in power, enforced a law protecting the grazing lands.

CPYRGHT

3.

"People's government in the autonomous regions adopted the co-prosperity-of-man-and-livestock policy with stock-breeding and it is now encouraging and protecting stock-breeding. The present number of livestock represents an increase of 10 percent over 1949 or 14 percent over 1948 in the six leagues of the region."

The failure to specify the types of animal whose numbers have increased leaves open the possibility that these are pigs and chickens, whose numbers can be increased readily if plenty of feed is available. The increase of pigs and chickens, however, in modern history has always foreshadowed instability of the Mongolian economy. Whenever the influence of the Han race has stretched into Mongolia, the number of pigs and chickens has increased. This is an important factor in the endless struggle between the Mongols and the Chinese.

CPYRGHT

4.

"Preventive injections against rinderpest were given to 48 percent of the cattle in 1949 and 70 percent in 1950. The people's government set up livestock dispensaries in all the leagues and treated 53,000 animals during the two years 1949 and 1950."

It is perhaps true that an animal epidemic prevention office has been established and with the results described. The Communists are believed to be using the same facilities and much the same staff as employed by the Manchukuo Government. The number of cattle given injections is also believed to be true. Under the Manchukuo regime, many Mongols relied on lamas, witches and the like to treat their domestic animals, but such practices are not tolerated under a Communist regime and breeders must use the animal epidemic prevention office despite their aversion to giving injections to their animals. The Manchukuo Government encouraged injections but never adopted extreme or compulsory measures for fear of provoking uprisings. The Communist regime, which resorts much more readily to force, should have no difficulty in enforcing preventive injections. It is notable, however, that this report makes no mention of glanders in horses, which with the cattle-plague is the most troublesome of contagious animal diseases in Mongolia. The Manchukuo officials in charge of this type of disease prevention had great difficulties.

CPYRGHT

5.

"The forestry district in the autonomous region is as large as one-sixth that of the whole country. In 1949 the people's government felled 320,000 cubic meters of lumber. The 1950 goal for felling lumber was 400,000 cubic meters but was accomplished by an excess of 43 percent. This year the people's government laid limitations on the felling of trees in order to protect the forests."

It is true that the forest areas within the Inner Mongolian autonomous region comprise about one-sixth of the forests of China. The Greater Khingan Range (122° 49' ) has the largest forests in China and is appropriately called "tree seas." These forest areas lie mostly within the Hu Na League, and have never been developed on as large a scale as those in eastern and northern

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25X1A

-3-

Manchuria (mostly Kirin Province) for the following reasons:

- a. Hu Na timber was inferior to that in Kirin Province and its uses were limited to mine posts, telegraph poles, railroad ties, and engineering work.
- b. The forest was far from consumers and high transportation costs made it too expensive to compete with the Kirin product in the markets.

With the Japanese advance into Manchuria and the ensuing need for defense construction work, the forests were denuded little by little, beginning in 1935. The logging program reached its climax in 1944, when forest railway lines were laid. At the same time the price of lumber shot up as reckless cutting widened the distance from the standing timber to the railway line. In the spring of 1946 the Eastern Mongolian People's Autonomous Government organized a government-owned commercial company known as the Eastern Mongolian Lumber Company which began work by taking over abandoned lumber which had not been carried out of the mountains at the war's end. According to information received in September 1946, the company's business record was poor and it had been unable to sell the lumber it held.

The cutting of 400,000 cubic meters of lumber is probably the highest volume that has been cut in the four years from 1940 to the end of the war are taken into account. It is worth considering why such a large amount of lumber was cut in spite of its not being a paying business. The policy of rational cutting, ostensibly for purposes of conservation, probably means that the Communists are being forced to limit operations because of the ever-increasing costs of transporting lumber to the railway lines.

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6.

"There are ten high schools in the whole region and the number of students is over 3,600. Eighty percent of the senior primary school graduates last year entered high schools. There are over 3,200 primary schools in the whole region, the total number of pupils being 262,000. Statistics reveal that 61 percent of all school-age children entered primary schools in the four eastern leagues (Esingan, Jirum, Hu Na, and Jooda)."

The number of middle schools and middle school students differs little from that under the Manchukuo regime. Probably more than half of the 3,600 students are Chinese, whereas under the Manchukuo Government there were 3,000 Mongolian students alone. It is also probable that more than half of the 262,000 primary school students are Chinese, but even so this represents a better rate of school attendance than under the Manchukuo regime, when there were only 60,000 primary school students. It is also probable that 61 percent of the children of school age in Hu Na League are attending schools. However, it is difficult to grasp the real situation with regard to Mongols because the report fails to state how many schools are for Mongols and how many students are Mongols.

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7.

"In October last year the city of Ulan Hota established a broadcasting system."

A broadcasting station was established at Wangyehmiao, now called Ulan Hota, in the spring of 1945, before the end of the war. This station and the one at Kalgan (114-55, 40-50) were the only radio stations in Inner Mongolia, and the latter was destroyed by fire on 11 August 1945. In August 1948 a broadcast from Wangyehmiao was heard.

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8.

"The people's government achieved good results in establishing medical and

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25X1A

-4-

quarantine measures and in eliminating the threat of rinderpest."

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How this was accomplished was not clear. Rinderpest was most troublesome during the Japanese regime, and it seems unlikely that the Chinese Communists have solved the problem so easily. Within the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region rinderpest is most prevalent in T'ungliao Hsien (122-14, 43-38), K'aiilu Hsien (121-15, 43-35) and Horchin Left Flank Banner, with T'ungliao Hsien notorious as a center of the disease. When a case of rinderpest was reported at Wangyehmiao in early 1946, the Chinese Communists told the people that the bacilli had been spread by the Japanese Army as it retreated from Wangyehmiao. Rinderpest outbreaks in the near future will probably be attributed to the United States. The Communists can always say that they have stamped out the disease but that it has been re-introduced by enemy action.

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9. "The Inner Mongolian farming districts have already undergone land reform." (New China Monthly)

In a nomadic society like Mongolia there is no such thing as private ownership of land. Banner land is owned jointly by the inhabitants, never by an individual. With the influx of Chinese immigrants into Mongolia at the end of the Ch'ing Dynasty to engage in farming, private ownership of land by the nobility and privileged classes was tacitly recognized as an exception. This led to many evils, and in 1940 the Manchukuo Government enacted a law abolishing private ownership of land, and all land was owned by the banners. The land reform referred to in this passage is probably in connection with the hsien within the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region where the Chinese system prevails. In the banners of Hsingan Province there is little significance to a land reform since the Mongols cultivate the land according to their ability and pay rent to the banner authorities according to the area cultivated. Prior to August 1945 there was not even one acre of land cultivated in Shilingol Province.

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10. Inner Mongolia "has an underground reserve of gold, iron, coal, salt, carbonate of sodium, mica, asbestos, and other mineral products." (New China Monthly)

The following comments can be made with respect to the mineral resources of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region:

- a. Gold: The gold-producing district is largely in Hu Na League, where gold is collected along the rivers that flow through the Greater Khingan Range. Although the exact output is not known, this is one of the largest gold-producing areas in Manchuria. According to 1931 statistics, the output was then 6,000 ounces.
- b. Iron: Although iron is produced in the vicinity of Lintung (118-58, 43-51) in Jooda League, it cannot be developed on a commercial basis because of transportation difficulties.
- c. Coal: There are many small coal mines scattered through the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region but none has any economic value except the Jalai Nor coal mine, between Hailar (119-42, 49-12) and Manchouli (117-27, 49-36). This mine is large and has modern facilities. It once produced up to 3,000 tons per day, but all of poor quality. Primitive coal mines, whose output can be utilized only by the local residents, are distributed as follows: two in Horchin Right Flank Forward Banner (122-10, 46-00), and one each in Abaganar

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25X1A

-5-

Left Banner (115-51, 44-02), Ujumuchin Right Banner (117-50, 44-55), Hoshit Right Banner (116-18, 44-25), and Jarod Right Banner (120-25, 44-40).

- d. Salt: The largest production of salt comes from Dabus Nor (Salt Lake) in Ujumuchin Right Banner. There are several other lakes which produce natural salt, but their production is sufficient to meet only local demands.
- e. Soda: Soda is produced in Horchin Right Flank Center Banner, but cannot be developed on a commercial basis. It is also produced in Horchin Left Flank Center Banner, with the output exported to the south.
- f. Mica and Asbestos: It has been claimed that these are produced in Tumet Left Banner (121-25, 42-05), which no longer come under the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Democratic People's Government. Other places are not known to produce these materials.

25X1A

☐ Comment. Evaluations of this material's usefulness are requested as a guide to the handling of future reports of the same general type.

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